proposal to review the F.E.R.A. (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act); and

(b) if so, the details of the specific proposals under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Government of India have received some suggestions for amending the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and these are being examined.

Fraud case Navasari Branch of SBI

1156. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that important files and documents pertaining to a vital fraud case of over rupees 3 crores in the Navsari Branch of the State Bank of India in Gujarat involving some senior bank officials are missing;

(b) if so, what are the deails thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to trace the missing documents besides fixing responsibility for the mischief; and

(d) what is the result of the investigations made into the fraud case stating the action taken by Government against the officials involved in the fraud?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (d) Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case under Sections 130 (b), 420, 467, 471, 477A, IPC read with Section 5(2) & 5(1) (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 against the Managing Director and other Directors of M|s Meghdoot Dyeing & Printing Mills Ltd., Navsari and M|s Gita Fabrics (P) Ltd., alongwith two officials of State Bank of India. The case is at the investigation stage. Some files containing copies of documents which are relevant to the case are reported to have been misplaced and are not traceable in the Laghu Udyog branch of State Bank of India. State Bank of India has taken steps to trace the files. Further action can be taken only after completion of the investigations by CBI.

Increase in the working hours of Central Government Employees

1157. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of representation have been received by Government in protest against the increase in working hours of Central Government employees by half-an-hour;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no useful purpose is served by increasing the working hours as it amounts to decrease in efficiency of the employees; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to reduce the timings by half-an-hour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In fact, the Central 4th Pay Commission recommended the increase in working hours in the

context of "the need to maintain and improve the level of productivity".

(c) Government do not contemplate any such steps.

Loans and advances to NCCF

1158. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appearing in the "Telegraph" dated 9.8.1986 under the caption "Consumer body loses Rs. 4.5 crores"; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and whether the concerned lead bank namely UCO Bank has been directed to make recoveries of loans, advances to NCCF and also to bring a change in the management Board of NCCF as per the latest instructions issued by RBI and the Government and if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) has reported that, upto 1984-85, it sustained heavy losses aggregating to about Rs. 3.74 crores due to a steep rise in its expenditure, heavy interest burden, uneconomic 'business deal etc. UCO Bank has reported that its involvement with NCCF is covered by adequate securities in the forms of stocks and Government guarantees. NCCF has also reported that departmental enquiries have been initiated against the persons involved in irregularities and certain cases of irregularities have been referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for investigations.

As regards change in the management due to unsatisfactory performance and bad financial health, the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has already issued a show cause notice for supersession of the Board of Directors of the NCCF. Two Directors of the Board have filed a Writ Petition against the action of the Central Registrar in the Delhi High Court and have obtained a Stay Order. The matter is therefore, sub-judice.

Rs. 65 crores advanced to Biscomaun

1159. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar, in defiance of the Centre's directive on observing financial discipline, have advanced Rs. 65 crores to Biscomaun—the apex Cooperative body in the State—alleged to have Swindled several crores of rupees by fraudulant transactions in seeds, fertilisers and pesticeides; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) The Government of Bihar has full powers to advance funds, in accordance with law, to cooperative institutions. The Government of Bihar has also observed the Govt. of India's general Guidelines regarding financial discipline as it has not gone into overdraft with the Reserve Bank of India during 1986-87.